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FROM DIRECTORS OFFICE

JAN 13 2005

TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600

In re Application of:	:	
Douglas P. Seams	:	DECISION ON PETITION
Serial No. 10/723,322	:	TO MAKE SPECIAL
Filed: November 26, 2003	:	(ENERGY)
For: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR	:	
EXTRACTION OF RESOURCES FROM A SUBTERRANEAN	:	
WELL BORE	:	

This is in response to the renewed petition filed December 20, 2004 under 37 CFR 1.102 (c) to make the above-identified application special under the procedure set forth in MPEP 708.02, Section VI: Energy.

A grantable petition to make an application special under 37 C.F.R. 1.102 (c), MPEP 708.02, Section VI for an invention which materially contributes to (A) the discovery or development of energy resources, or (B) the more efficient utilization and conservation of energy resources must be accompanied by statements under 37 CFR 1.102 by applicant or his attorney explaining how the invention materially contributes to category (A) or (B) set forth above.

Applicant states that "the invention relates to a method for stimulating production of resources (such a(sic) coal bed methane gas) from a coal seam". Applicant further states that "according to certain embodiments, resource production from a well bore is improved by an efficient removal of water and obstructive materials". Additionally, applicant states that "in certain embodiments, efficiency of gas production may be improved in [] coal beds by increasing the permeability of parts of the coal by providing controlled collapse of a portion of the coal or other forms of stress relief in portions of the coal". Applicant further states that "in particular embodiments, a drainage well bore having a flatter curvature may be used to efficiently produce resources by angling the drainage well bore downward relative to the horizontal in the coal seam".

These statements, along with the technical overview of the manner in which applicant's invention will be used, are adequate to establish for the record that the

invention "materially contributes to the more efficient utilization and conservation of energy resources."

For the above stated reasons, the petition is **GRANTED**.

In view of the granting of the Petition to make Special based upon energy, any determination of the environment grounds for making the application special is now moot and thus will not be treated on those grounds.

The examiner is directed (1) to make an interference search for possible interfering applications; (2) to promptly examine this application out of turn; and (3) if any interfering application is discovered, to examine such application simultaneously and state in the first official letter of such application that it is being taken out of turn because of a possible interference.

Petitioner is advised that this application will continue to be special, throughout its entire prosecution and pendency, including interference and appeal, if any, only if petitioner makes a prompt *bona fide* effort, in response to each Office action, to place the application in condition for allowance, even if it is necessary to conduct an interview with the examiner to accomplish this purpose.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Randolph A. Reese", is written over a horizontal line.

Randolph A. Reese
Special Programs Examiner
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RAR/jwk: 1/3/05